

Cookbook of Activities for Driver Education

MT CURRICULUM GUIDE

M15

Objective: Demonstrate turbulent air to the front and rear of a passing truck

INGREDIENTS

Small block of wood

Shallow tray with one inch of sand

Developed by Fred Mottola

INSTRUCTIONS

- Move the block of wood through the sand and call attention to how the sand is accumulating to the front and sides of the block of wood, while leaving a void of sand to the rear.

Explain that when a truck is approaching and getting ready to pass, there is the same type of movement of the air. The accumulation of air to the front of the truck can push a vehicle out of a travel lane away from the side of the truck. To the rear of the truck the void of air creates a vacuum that can draw a vehicle into the direction of the truck. The effects from the truck's air turbulence will be most dominant when a vehicle is in a reduced traction situation.

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M15

Objective: Understanding the difficulty in seeing small vehicles, motorcyclists and bicyclist

INGREDIENTS

Black videocassette jacket

Dark painted pencil

Developed by Fred Mottola

INSTRUCTIONS

Hold the videocassette and pencil together in one hand in full view of the class for five seconds.

Hold the pencil against the edge of the cassette.

After five seconds, put both objects down where students can't see them.

Ask students to write down what they saw in your hand.

Solicit feedback. Note if most will have seen the cassette, but few noticed the pencil.

Emphasize the difficulty in seeing the smaller object and how a search would have improved what they saw.

Hold the cassette and pencil together again, pointing out how much easier it is to see the pencil when looking for it.